

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:DSCHIELE:DF:JN

APPROVED BY P:PHABIB

ARA/CAR:THEAVNER

ARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN

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S/S - PSBRIDGES

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 195993 TOSEC 200132

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: RQ

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMO: PUERTO RICO'S PARTICIPATION IN
THE OLYMPICS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM ARA - SHLAUDEMAN, IO - BAKER,
ACTING, THROUGH P - HABIB

1. YOU ASKED HOW IT HAPPENED THAT PUERTO RICO PARTICIPATED
IN THE OLYMPICS SEPARATELY FROM THE UNITED STATES.

2. WHILE PUERTO RICO'S PARTICIPATION IN THE MONTREAL
OLYMPICS EMPHASIZED ITS SEPARATE IDENTITY, WE FIND THAT
IT IS NOT A NEW DEVELOPMENT.

3. PUERTO RICO HAS FOR YEARS HAD A SEPARATE SPORTS
IDENTITY IN LATIN AMERICA, PARTICIPATING AS PUERTO RICO
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IN SUCH REGIONAL COMPETITIONS AS THE CENTRAL AMERICAN

AND PAN AMERICAN GAMES. PUERTO RICO WAS HOST TO THE FORMER IN 1966 AND WILL BE HOST TO THE LATTER IN 1979. THE U.S. PARTICIPATES IN THE PAN AMERICAN GAMES.

4. IN THE OLYMPICS THIS IS AT LEAST THE THIRD TIME PUERTO RICO HAS PARTICIPATED SEPARATELY. THAT PARTICIPATION IS BASED ON A FINDING BY THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

THAT PUERTO RICO IS ELIGIBLE UNDER ITS RULES AS A "DOMINION OR COLONY" OF THE UNITED STATES. (WE SUSPECT THE RULES WERE FORMULATED TO ACCOMMODATE THE PRE-WORLD WAR II BRITISH EMPIRE.)

5. THE MORE IMPORTANT QUESTION, WE BELIEVE, INVOLVES PUERTO RICO'S EFFORTS MORE GENERALLY TO EXERCISE AN INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL IDENTITY. ARA IS WORKING ON A STUDY OF THE GENERAL QUESTION OF PUERTO RICO'S "INTERNATIONAL PERSONALITY," WHICH WILL BE COMPLETED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THIS STUDY WILL DEAL, INTER ALIA, WITH PUERTO RICAN PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND THE PUERTO RICAN APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK. HABIB

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